

**EMT-1 REGULATORY TASK FORCE  
MEETING MINUTES  
July 20, 2001  
Oakland International Airport Fire Station  
Oakland, CA**

**I. Introductions**

A. Self-introductions were made.

<b>MEMBERS PRESENT</b>	<b>EMSA STAFF PRESENT</b>	<b>ALTERNATES PRESENT</b>	<b>MEMBERS ABSENT</b>	<b>ALTERNATES ABSENT</b>
Bob Cordray	Richard Watson	Bruce Kenagy	Nancy Casazza	David Nevins
Jean English	Maureen McNeil		Elaine Dethlefsen	Debbie Notturmo
Donna Ferracone	Lois Williams		Bruce Haynes	Jeff Page
Pat Kramm	Sean Trask		Dave Magnino	Karen Petrilla
John Pritting			Steve Maiero	
Veronica			Tom McGinnis	
Shepardson				
John Tysell				
			Debbie Meier	
			Debi Moffat	
			Byron Parsons	
			Marco Randazzo	
			Bob Repar	
			Susan Smith	
			Kevin White	
			Todd Wilhoyte	
		<b>GUESTS</b>		
		Fred Claridge		

**II. Minutes**

Approved with the following correction:  
Jean English was listed twice as attending.

**III. Agenda**

Approved as written.

**IV. Informational Update**

- A. The Task Force was updated on the following items from the July 10, 2001 Education and Personnel Committee Meeting of the Vision Project:
  1. The Personnel and Education Committee recommended that because the EMT-I Task Force is proposing eliminating the written and skills recertification testing, that certain categories or topics of continuing education are required, something similar to what the National Registry requires.
  2. The Personnel and Education Committee also recommended that the EMT-I recertification candidate receive some sort of verification of skills competency. This is not a skills exam like a certification exam, but some verification that the candidate has successfully passed a competency skills exam. This should be educational and not a pass/fail. The Vision staff is surveying a sample of other states to see what they are doing in this area.
  3. The Vision Project is in the process of producing the Grey Book, which is a progress report on the Vision Project. Richard Watson is attempting to extend the Vision Project to have a third and final Vision Conference in 2002 and wrap up some of the Vision Objectives in 2003.
- B. Voting - The following ground rules were discussed and agreed to regarding voting by the EMT-I Task Force:
  1. Only representatives of constituent groups are allowed to vote and the EMS Authority has one vote.

2. Only one vote per constituent group.
  3. Only voting members can make a motion.
  4. If a primary and an alternate member are present, only the primary member can make a motion and vote.
  5. A simple majority vote of members present will carry the vote. Richard Watson suggested that Sean Trask contact constituent groups with to remind them of the importance of their attendance. Sean will follow-up.
  6. A motion was made to accept the ground rules as described. The motion was passed unanimously.
- C. Sean Trask received a phone call informing him that Gloria Huerta will be replaced by LuAnne Underwood on the EMT-I Task Force as the Southern California Fire Chiefs Representative. Sean has requested and is waiting for formal notification from the Southern California Fire Chiefs.
- D. Richard Watson gave the following update on the EMT-II Regulations;
1. The EMT-II modular approach is a better alternative than passing the emergency EMT-I regulations because there were many questions by constituent groups as to why the emergency regulations were being rushed through without the usual input.
  2. Current EMT-II regulations state that existing paramedic services cannot be displaced by implementing an EMT-II program.
  3. The Emergency EMT-I Regulations will expire on August 15, 2001 and those EMS systems (Imperial, Sierra, Santa Clara and Napa) that are currently under EMT-I Trial Study will continue under the trial study without interrupting any services.
  4. Those EMS systems with approved trial studies will have their medical oversight plans submitted to the EMS Medical Directors Association of California (EMDAC). If by August 15, 2001, the medical oversight plans are not satisfactory, that EMS system's trial study will be suspended.
  5. EMDAC has asked the EMT-I Task Force to remove endotracheal intubation from the scope of practice when the Task Force completes its work.
  6. The EMDAC Scope of Practice Committee is exploring a new approach to the way they review trial study requests.
  7. The physician members of EMDAC have received the draft EMT-II regulations for their review.

## V. Old Business

- A. Committee Report: EMT Approving Authority (Sub-committee members: Elaine Dethlefsen, Donna Ferracone, Debi Moffat, Kevin White): The following points were made:
1. Section 100057, Sean continues to express his concern that in order for the EMS Authority to approve all EMT-I training programs in the state, there would have to be a change in statute, specifically Section 1797.208 of the Health and Safety Code which could be difficult to achieve. Also, Sean expressed his concern that in order for the EMS Authority to approve all EMT-I training programs in California, the EMS Authority would have to add staff, which is very unlikely due to budget constraints and the current administration's resistance to increasing staff. The Task Force wishes to standardize as many processes as possible, including EMT-I training program approval. At the last Task Force meeting, the members suggested that the local EMS agencies collect the necessary information from the EMT-I training programs and forward it to the state, where it would receive approval. A motion was made by John Pritting, and seconded by Veronica Shepardson, regarding section 100057 of the proposed language to continue to work on a process for standardization for approving EMT-I training programs but leave the certifying authority as is in current regulations.
- Discussion:** Richard Watson, the EMS Authority would really like to be able to audit many things. It is within the purview of the EMS Authority and we should focus on what is best for the patient and not focus on cost. Training programs in the rural areas may find the ability to afford the cost of site visits difficult to meet. One of the objectives of the Vision Project is to improve EMS education in the rural areas. This issue could be split into two pathways; the

first is the short-term goal – standardization of EMT-I training program approval processes without a statutory change. The second pathway – pursue a statutory change.

**Vote:** Ayes (3) – Sean Trask, John Pritting, Veronica Shepardson, Nays (4) – Robert Cordray, John Tysell, Donna Ferracone, Pat Kramm. The motion fails.

A motion was made by John Tysell, MD and seconded by Robert Cordray to approve section 100057 as proposed. **Vote:** Ayes (4) – Donna Ferracone, John Tysell, John Pritting, Robert Cordray, Nays (3) Sean Trask, Veronica Shepardson.

- B. Comparison of Standardized Certification Examination Options: The following points were made:
1. A handout was distributed by Sean Trask regarding comments by various fire services concerning the National Registry (NR) EMT-I Exam. Most of the comments were centered around the cost of the exam, loss of control of administering the exam, inability to know what is on the exam to teach the exam, turn around time on test results and overall customer service by the NR. These comments were based mostly on the fire services experience with the NR paramedic exam. Some of the concerns have been addressed by the proposed elimination of recertification testing.
  2. Sean will check with the NR to see if the NR is adamant about having a skills exam administered independently from the training program and will report back at the next Task Force Meeting.
  3. Even though the Task Force is proposing the elimination of recertification testing, the point was made that some basic fire academies conduct an entire basic EMT-I course and would be subject to a certification exam and the same concerns expressed in item number 1 above.
  4. Training programs and providers will be on a learning curve after transitioning to a standardized exam.
  5. National Registry distributes the exams to the approved certifying authorities to administer when they need to. The certifying authorities are not dependent on the NR to mail them the test for each administration.
  6. A concern was raised as to the difficulty of studying for the NR exam. There is a study guide but some Task Force members did not feel that this was helpful. Sean will ask the NR about a study guide and report back to the next Task Force meeting.
  7. Turn around times on test results continue to be a concern. Sean stated that some certifying agencies receive test results electronically with certain arrangements with the NR. This saves time in receiving the test results.
  8. The Task Force Members were reminded of the purposes of a standardized exam such as, public protection, provide meaningful EMT-I certification, validity and reliability, supporting inference that the test measures what the certification is for, NHTSA recommendation, Vision objective, EMT-I Task Force objective and Interstate reciprocity for both into and out of California.
  9. Sean will invite representatives from local EMS agencies, to the next Task Force Meeting, that use the NR exam to share their experiences with the NR and the EMT-I exam.

## **VI. New Business**

- A. Review of Task Force Objectives – This was deferred due to time constraints.

Next meeting will be August 28, 2001 from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM, tentatively set for San Diego. Sean will check the availability of the Naval Training Center with Debi Moffat.

Recorder: Donna Ferracone